

Regarding Transportation Security Administration Docket No RSPA-2004-18370, I would like to submit comments. It has come to my attention that the current system of hazardous materials identification used for transportation on railways and potentially on roadways or other transport means is in jeopardy based on the details of this proposed rule change.

My interest in this issue is that of a fire department first responder for accidents, fires and hazardous materials releases in all forms of transportation. The current system requiring placards on all hazardous cargos has served us well in these endeavors. Removing any part of this valuable tool will in effect place first responders at risk. The trade off in terms of removing a potential piece of information for terrorists does not justify removing this information from responders who rely on placards on a day-to-day basis nationwide. Potential terrorists can still access some if not all of the information they need to gain access to these products at their source or destinations. The responders who need to know product information will not be able to access it when they need it the most.

I have responded to train wrecks as well as rail cars at fixed facilities where the identification of the materials I faced would not be readily known to me under this proposed change.

In consideration of these facts, I strongly oppose any changes that degrade the current placard system for hazardous materials identification. Removing this information would in effect give a terrorist an advantage over responders if materials were to be released. The public and first responders deserve to be protected to the fullest extent from accidents or acts of terrorism involving placarded materials.

Thank you, R. Ranger Dorn